

HOUSE  
RESEARCH

ORGANIZATION bill analysis

HB 1044

Criss

4/26/89

(CSHB 1044 by Fraser)

SUBJECT: Certification of food service training

COMMITTEE: Labor and Employment Relations: committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 6 ayes--Criss, Shine, Fraser, Mowery, Ovard, Turner  
0 nays  
1 present, not voting--P. Moreno  
2 absent--Evans, Betts

WITNESSES: For--Richie Jackson, Texas Restaurant Association;  
Chuck Courtney, Texas Retailers Association  
  
Against--None. (Registering in opposition but not  
testifying -- Rene Oliveira, City of Houston)

BACKGROUND: The 70th Legislature enacted HB 2092, giving the  
Texas Department of Health (TDH) power to accredit  
local food service training standards. However, cities  
that mandate their own training programs for food  
service workers are not required to accept the  
credentials of a worker who has undergone training in  
another city's mandatory training and testing program.

DIGEST: CSHB 1044 would amend VACS art. 4476-10(b) to require  
local jurisdictions with DHS accredited training  
programs for food service workers to accept as  
sufficient the training of other accredited programs.  
  
The bill would limit the fee charged by a local health  
jurisdiction for issuing certification to a food  
service worker. The fee could not exceed the lesser of  
the reasonable cost of issuing the certificate, or the  
fee charged to certify that the worker has met the  
training and testing requirements by another means.

SUPPORTERS SAY: CSHB 1044 would require jurisdictions to take the  
reasonable step of recognizing as sufficient all food  
service training programs and testing that meet DHS  
standards. Workers certified in one city would be able  
to carry their certification to other areas without  
facing redundant re-training and re-testing. The bill  
would not only remove a needless burden from one  
segment of the workforce but also simplify the

HB 1044  
House Research Organization  
page 2

certification process. The limit on certification fees would allow cities to recoup costs but would keep them from overcharging workers for the service.

OPPONENTS  
SAY:

Just because food service workers have taken a state-approved course does not guarantee that they meet the food-service standards set by every city. Each city should be able to set its own, higher standard, without those standards being undermined by the state.

NOTES:

The committee substitute eliminated provisions in the original version of the bill for reducing the number of course hours required for training programs and for allowing for home study as well as classroom training.